

Trans Kalahari Corridor Paves the Way for Increased Trade

The Trans Kalahari Corridor (TKC) is a trade route made up of the national highways that connect the Walvis Bay port in Namibia with Botswana and the Gauteng province of South Africa. Although the TKC represents the shortest possible route for trade through the three countries, it has been historically underutilized. Regional importers and exporters have not taken advantage of the TKC to avoid the congestion and delayed shipping times that often occur at other ports.

The Southern Africa Global Competitiveness Hub, a USAID-funded project, has facilitated the formation of a TKC Management Committee and the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding by Namibia, Botswana, and South Africa on the development and management of the TKC. The Committee, with technical assistance from the Southern Africa Global Competitiveness Hub, has simplified and harmonized Customs procedures and documentation, extended opening hours at border posts, and worked with the private sector to invest in improvements to facilities and services along the TKC, e.g., gas stations, overnight accommodations, cell phone coverage, etc. These improvements have attracted increased usage of TKC. The commercial vehicles utilization of TKC increased from 15% of design capacity in 1999 to 60% in 2003.



Photo Credit: TKC/Walvis Bay Corridor newsletter

Signing of the TKC-MOU by Transport Ministers Omar, Seretse and Amweelo of three TKC countries (seated).
Observed by US Ambassadors McGuire of Namibia and Huggins on Botswana (with red ties).